

CALVERT COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION



Annual Report to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners

Dr. Brandon Temple, Chair
Patricia McCoy, Vice-Chair

September 19, 2023





Purpose

To report to the Board of County Commissioners and the Citizens of Calvert County on the accomplishments of the Calvert County Veterans Affairs Commission in our second year.

CALVERT COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION



- **March 23, 2021** - Created by Resolution 13-21
- **August 11, 2021** - First Meeting





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CALVERT COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

- ★ **Dr. Brandon Temple, Chair, Educator/Educational Admin Rep**
- ★ **Patricia McCoy, Vice-Chair, Am Legion Post 206**
- ★ **Matthew Blackwelder, District 1**
- ★ **John Gray, American Legion Post 220**
- ★ **Jeffrey King, Business Owner Rep**
- ★ **Michael Richardson, American Legion Post 274**
- ★ **Robert Sprecher, American Legion Post 85**
- ★ **Michael Sweeney, District 2**
- ★ **Michael Wood, District 3**



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Ex-Officio Members

- ★ **Melanie Woodson, Calvert County Gov't, Director Human Resources, BOCC Rep**
- ★ **Christian Zimmermann, Associate Dean, College of So. MD**
- ★ **Dr. Nicole DeRamus, Asst. VP, Veterans Programs, University of Maryland Global Campus**
- ★ **Meg Faller, Asst. Branch Mgr., Calvert Library**

Organizational Purpose

Honor, advocacy and respect for Calvert County Veterans.

Vision

“All Calvert County veterans are receiving the benefits and services to which they are entitled.”

Mission Statement

“To advocate for all Calvert County veterans and their families while fostering a spirit of fellowship for veterans in our community.”

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Informational presentations:

- ★ MD Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Women Veterans/Inclusion Program
- ★ Calvert County State's Attorney, Veteran Court Initiatives
- ★ Housing Authority of Calvert County, Housing Programs
- ★ University of Maryland Global Campus, Educational Benefits
- ★ Calvert Library, Veterans Programming
- ★ DCVA, Caregiver Support Programming
- ★ Calvert County Family Network, Open Table Program
- ★ Hospice of the Chesapeake, Honor Salute & Veterans Programs

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PROGRAM



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- ★ Bulrushes Café
- ★ S.J. Johnson
- ★ Skills Barber Shop
- ★ Calvert Library



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2023 VETERANS FEEDBACK



Most frequently identified needs:

- ★ Access to information on VA benefits and services
- ★ Mental health/medical care
- ★ Transportation to VA medical facilities
- ★ Caregiver Support/Resources

VETERANS RESOURCE GUIDE



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- ★ “Living” document – updated regularly
- ★ Social media promotional campaign
- ★ Promotional business cards
- ★ QR Code

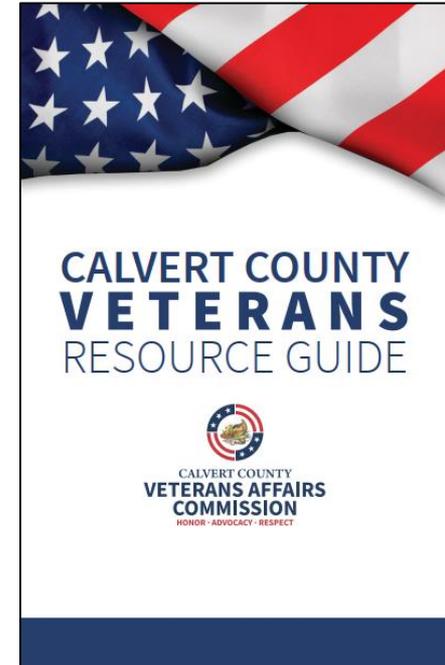


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☎ 410-535-1600, ext. 8803
✉ veterans@calvertcountymd.gov
🌐 www.calvertcountymd.gov/VAC



Scan to view
the Veterans
Resource Guide



VETERANS EVENTS



- ★ 2022 Calvert County Fair
- ★ 2022 National Veterans Owned Business Week
- ★ Community Resource Day
- ★ Month of the Military Child & Gold Star Spouses Day
- ★ 2023 Memorial Day Ceremonies
- ★ Library-Meet & Greet & Caregiver Events



SOCIAL MEDIA



- ★ 105 Posts; 166,379 Impressions; 411 Shares
- ★ Promoted a variety of Veteran resources/events
- ★ Increased access to information on resources/events via Constant Contact
- ★ Collaboration with Economic Development and Communications & Media Relations

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- ★ Certificate of Appreciation Program
- ★ Expanded *Ex Officio* Membership
- ★ Active participant in state/regional veterans boards
- ★ Veterans Court Initiative
- ★ Library-VAC partnership on Veteran programming
(Benefits, Caregiver Support, Claims)



NEXT STEPS

Recommend BOCC support for these initiatives:

- ★ Continue to improve information dissemination
- ★ Research options for improved access to Veteran Service Officers (VSO) for Calvert County Veterans
- ★ Operation Green Light/National Veteran-Owned Business Week

2023-2024 GOALS

- ★ Create/Implement CVACC Communication Plan
- ★ Benefits/Claims Clinic in Calvert County
- ★ Expanded promotion of veteran/military related observances
- ★ Promote volunteer opportunities
- ★ Support Adoption of Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit



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QUESTIONS?



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